

















Wireless Legislation (SB395)

- Expands role of Wireless E-911 Services Board to planning for future network and VoIP deployment (Comp. Plan)
- Change funding to automatic PSAP funding and grant program with fund balance being distributed each year
- Authorize the Board to publish best practices

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Impact of Funding

- \$4 Million Increased Funding to PSAPs over FY2007 Requested (approx. \$6M over FY2005 actual)
- Average increase of 34% over FY2005 actual recurring funding
- PSAPs with extraordinary growth projected at less FY2007 funding
- Annual recalculation will correct if growth is realized







Grant Committee

- Chief Neuhard, Fairfax County Chairman
- · George Thomas, Chesterfield County
- · Bill Agee, Franklin County
- Jim Junkins, Harrisonburg-Rockingham
- · Tim Addington, Scott County
- · Greg Staylor, Chesapeake
- Mike Edwards, VACO
- Dorothy Spears-Dean- Staff Support

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Goals and Objectives of Committee

- The Grant Committee is tasked with creating the guidelines for the Wireless E-911 Grant Program.
- The deliverable will be a comprehensive document that provides the mechanics or guidelines for the Wireless E-911 Grant Program.
- The objective is to complete the grant guidelines no later than the July 12th Board meeting.

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Sample Components of Guidelines

- Program Guidance:
 - Executive summary
 - Program overview
 - Program requirements
 - Authorized program expenditures
- Eligibility Criteria
- Funding Availability and Methodology
- Award and Reporting Requirements
- · Forms, Templates, and Resources

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Input and Resources for Committee

- Regional PSAP Managers' Meetings
 - Chesterfield
 - Natural Bridge
 - Abingdon
- Resource Library provide supporting info on NG 911, data sharing, and other topics:
 - NENA
 - NRIC
 - NIST/OLES
 - GJXDM and NIEM







Input and Resources for Committee

 Program Summaries - provide supporting info on existing federal and state grant programs:

– VDEM - OEMS – DOJ/DHS - JAG - USFA - DNI

 The objective of the summaries is to leverage the Virginia program in relation to existing grant programs

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Regional PSAP Managers' Meetings

- Attendees were asked to contemplate the following questions:
 - What do you think the grant guidelines should look like?
 - How do you think the grant funding should be targeted?
- Attendees' answers were grounded by the following legislative parameters:
 - Needs-based
 - "To the benefit of wireless E-911"







Suggestions for Grant Guidelines

- · Definitions for all functional elements of grant quidelines
- Longevity of guidelines, forward thinking language, and strategically driven funding priorities
- · Recognize personnel recruiting, training, and retention issues
- Provide planning assistance to PSAPs to help identify needs and ensure sustainability of funded projects

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Suggestions for Grant Guidelines

- Establish governance structure that supports the **PSAPs**
- Promote and reward regionalization
- Support of statewide projects
- Staff support needs to be an integral part of the grant process (from application to review)
- Include evaluative and enforcement criteria to maintain accountability
- Streamlined and user-friendly process







Suggestions for Grant Guidelines

- Clearly defined fundable categories (equipment) and programmatic areas (regionalism)
- Balance between specifics and generalities to ensure flexibility and usefulness for PSAPs
- Grant awards should be made on an annual basis (includes multi-year projects); however, extensions are permissible
- Consider all types of cost (TCO) and payment options (lease v. purchase)

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Suggestions for Grant Guidelines

- Funding priorities need to be adjustable
- Format of guidelines broad objectives or specific items
- Establishment of review process (Grant Committee or Board review)
- Funding methodology should be consistent with guidelines and reflect a needs-based approach







Suggestions on Targeting Funding

- Recognize that different PSAPs have different funding needs
- Only PSAPs should be eligible to apply for the Wireless E-911 Grants
- Appropriateness of a local cost component

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Suggestions on Targeting Funding

- · Objectives of methodology:
 - · Differentiate between a need and a want
 - Take into account the size of the PSAP
 - Be consistent (based on a formula or definition)
 - Promote fiscal responsibility (caps for awards)
 - Acknowledge the relationship that exists between cost and the size of an operation (geometric cost structure)
 - Provide equipment replacement schedules based on age of equipment or availability of technical support

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Suggestions on Targeting Funding

- Grant funding should not reward creative writing
- Need-based funding criteria:
 - Budget amount (based on median for region)
 - Limit funding by size (PSAPs with more than 6 positions would not be eligible for funding)
 - Call volume
 - · Census data
 - Threshold amount that is a percentage of budget

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Conclusion

- The Wireless E-911 grant program is a new funding source for PSAPs, but it will not fix all of the public safety financial woes.
- It is an opportunity for Virginia to establish a model for other states.
- The suggestions for grant guidelines and targeting funding, resource library, and grant summaries are the collective starting point for discussions within the Grant Committee.
- Committee will need to meet a minimum of four times at a location to be determined.

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20











